

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A transaction assisting apparatus for assisting transactions in goods, comprising:

chain order input means permitting input of a chain order, the chain order being an order requesting, on condition of sale or purchase of first goods, purchase or sale of second goods different from the first goods;

order detecting means for detecting an order for purchase or sale of the first goods with respect to which the 10 chain order is placed; and

chain order processing means, responsive to the detection of a buy or sell order with respect to a predetermined chain order by said order detecting means, for performing a selling or purchasing process with respect to the first goods 15 and performing a purchasing or selling process with respect to the second goods.

2. The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising chain order storing means for storing the chain order input from said chain order input means; and deleting means for deleting, from said chain order storing means, a chain order with respect to which processing has been completed by said chain order processing means.

25 3. The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising display means for selectively displaying [those of] the chain orders which include a sell or buy

order for the second goods and which satisfy a condition for sale or purchase of the second goods.

4. The transaction assisting apparatus according to  
5 claim 3, wherein said display means inhibits display of information about a buy or sell order for the second goods included in the chain order when the chain order is placed, and displays the information after the chain order is transacted.

10 5. The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising price changing means, responsive to change in price of the second goods among chain orders displayed by said display means, for changing the price of the corresponding first goods in an interlocked manner.

15 6. The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said chain order processing means performs chain order processing in series if an order placed with respect to the second goods to be transacted is a chain order.

20 7. The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising tax amount calculating means for calculating an amount of tax to be paid as a result of transaction; and

25 notifying means for notifying parties concerned in the transaction of the chain order of the amount of tax calculated by said tax amount calculating means.

8. The transaction assisting apparatus according to  
claim 1, further comprising transfer means for automatically  
transferring a price and a tax payable as a result of transaction  
5 from one to another of accounts of parties concerned in the  
transaction.

9. A computer-readable recording medium recording a  
program to be executed by a computer for causing the computer  
10 to perform a transaction assisting process for assisting  
transactions in goods,

wherein the program causes the computer to function  
as:

chain order input means permitting input of a chain  
15 order, the chain order being an order requesting, on condition  
of sale or purchase of first goods, purchase or sale of second  
goods different from the first goods;

order detecting means for detecting an order for  
purchase or sale of the first goods with respect to which the  
20 chain order is placed; and

chain order processing means, responsive to the  
detection of a buy or sell order with respect to a predetermined  
chain order by the order detecting means, for performing a selling  
or purchasing process with respect to the first goods and  
25 performing a purchasing or selling process with respect to the  
second goods.